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New U.S.-India Axis Pushed by Pro-Israel Forces

By Michael Collins Piper

Despite everything else you may have heard in the major media, the Israeli lobby has been the primary force behind the Bush administration's much-heralded new policy of promoting better relations between the United States and India.

The truth is that when President George W. Bush enthusiastically welcomed India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, during his recent trip to Washington, every seasoned "insider" in the American capital knew the real reason for the loudly-touted new friendship between the United States and India: it came about because the alliance had the approval of the powerful pro-Israel lobby in Washington.

As if to underscore the point for those who may have somehow missed what was really going on, a clique of Washington-based American "neo-conservatives" known for their devotion to the interests of Israel have banded together to form "the U.S. India League," which will promote congressional and public support for the Bush administration's initiative to firm up a US-Indian strategic relationship.

Components of that strategic relationship — as outlined by the administration and endorsed by the pro-Israel stalwarts — include U.S. support for the expansion of India's nuclear development along with the expansion of U.S. economic relations with India which, in recent years, has emerged as a major site for the "outsourcing" of U.S. jobs, particularly in the service industries.

The names of those associated with the US India League are a virtual roster of some of Israel's most vociferous boosters in Washington: They include:

• Don Feder, the league's "executive director," a syndicated columnist who is the author of the book, ***A Jewish Conservative Looks at Pagan America***;

• Alan Keyes, a former American deputy ambassador to the United Nations, whose path to power came as a result of having been the Harvard room-mate of William Kristol. Kristol is publisher of the neo-conservative ***Weekly Standard*** magazine and the son of ex-Trotskyite and neo-conservative "godfather," Irving Kristol, who — now along with his son — is one of Israel's leading strategists in Washington;

• Thomas Donnelly, former deputy executive director of the Project for the New American Century, founded by the aforementioned William Kristol, which once declared that America needed a "new Pearl Harbor" in order to begin expanding its imperial interests abroad;

• Kenneth R. Timmerman, a veteran political polemicist whose works have been praised by the likes of Simon Wiesenthal, whose eponymous "Center" based in Los Angeles, has become a major source for pro-Israel propaganda. Timmerman is now promoting the theory that Iran was involved in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on America; and

• Clifford D. May, a former correspondent for ***The New York Times*** and now chairman of the policy committee of the Committee on the Present Danger, one of the foremost pro-Israel lobby groups in Washington;

That these pro-Israel tacticians are now lobbying for expansion of the U.S. relationship with India comes as no surprise to those who have watched the growing alliance between Israel and India that has been in development for just over a decade.

The historical record shows that — acting in tandem with a nest of highly-paid lobbyists on the payrolls of the government of India, private Indian financial interests, and well-fixed American hustlers who want to profit from U.S. business deals in India — the Israeli lobby played the primary role in "fixing" the new U.S.-Indian relationship.

In fact, for some years, elements of the Israeli lobby and the increasingly wealthy and influential Indian community in the United States have been working closely together in Washington on matters of joint tactical interest. While the U.S. supplies billions of taxpayer dollars to Israel, propping up that country's domestic industry, Israel, in turn, has used U.S. largesse to underwrite its massive arms industry, which counts India as one of its biggest customers.

In addition, Israeli financiers are starting to invest heavily in India where — as previously noted and as many displaced American workers now well know — U.S.-based service industries (such as some of the credit card giants, among many others) are "outsourcing" jobs at substantially reduced pay rates to Indian workers. So the Israeli benefit is more than just in the geopolitical realm.

As part of their argument for the new U.S.-Indian strategic relationship, the Bush administration and its allies in the neo-conservative network in Washington are saying that the U.S.-India alliance is a "good" thing that is needed to counter China's growing economic, political and military might in Asia.

This may sound like a sensible argument to some who have fears about China's intentions. However, when one considers the fact that China today has such a substantial military arsenal because, for the last 25 years, Israel's arms industry (subsidized by U.S. taxpayer dollars) was one of China's leading suppliers of conventional arms and arms technology — much of which originated in the United States in the first place — that argument is disingenuous, if not hypocritical, to those who look at the bigger picture.

And it is exactly that bigger picture that Israel and its lobby in Washington would prefer Americans ignore. The Israeli lobby wants to build up India not so much as a counter to China but, instead, as a counter to the Muslim-dominated republic of Pakistan, India's longtime enemy.

In addition, Israel knows that India, which was long allied with the Arab world, as part of its traditional, independent-minded foreign policy, has been a firm supporter of a Palestinian state. As such, Israel hopes to use its new leverage with India — through the forging of U.S. support for India's nuclear ambitions — to effectively dissolve previous Indian support for Palestinian statehood.

All of these factors, however, ignore a key point: In India, there is widespread suspicion and concern — and not just in the substantial minority Muslim population, but also within the ruling Hindu-dominated Congress Party of Prime Minister Singh — egarding the developing "U.S.-Israel-India axis," which many Indians see as a threat to India's sovereignty and independence.

So although the Indian leader has been the toast of the town in Washington, things may not be so comfortable for him back home in India.

And it is probably worth noting that there are many Indians who believe that Israel's intelligence service, Mossad, played a covert role in the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a murder that preceded and perhaps actually made possible the new "opening" between Israel and India.

Here in the United States, the key figure in forging the Washington alliance of the Israeli lobby and the lobby for India, was former Rep. Stephen Solarz (D-N.Y.) who — during his years in Congress — was such an audacious advocate for India that he often called himself the "congressman from Bombay."

However, Solarz's interest in India was primarily because, as one of Israel's leading legislative legmen on Capitol Hill, he saw a tactical alliance between the Israeli lobby and the increasingly wealthy and powerful Indian community in America as a way of advancing Israel's interests.

As such, it was not uncommon to also hear Solarz described as the "congressman from Tel Aviv" and Solarz himself would have been the last one to dispute the solid truth behind that moniker.

After leaving Congress, having been defeated for renomination, Solarz emerged as a paid lobbyist for the government of India, becoming its chief point man in Washington. In recent years, however, Solarz has been eclipsed by other lobbyists for India who also got in on the action when it became apparent that lobbying for India had the approval of the Israeli lobby.

Other big names who've signed on the Indian payroll have included former Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), the GOP presidential nominee in 1996, and three major Democratic Party luminaries, former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, former Texas Gov. Ann Richards and former Senate majority leader George Mitchell (D-Maine), along with former Democratic Party National Chairman Robert Strauss and top Washington power broker Vernon Jordan, who is a regular attendee at the international Bilderberg meetings.

In the meantime, India's lobby has had the support of influential pro-Israel lobbying units such as the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, and, of course, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a registered foreign lobby for Israel.

Ironically, although Bush has made the issue of nuclear weapons proliferation a cornerstone of his foreign policy, having used that as the foundation for his war against
Saddam Hussein and as the basis for his ongoing offensives against Iran and North Korea, the president seems to be looking the other way as far as India is concerned. While India has pledged that its nuclear program will be strictly peaceful in nature, India has yet to sign the Nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty.

All of this taken together is a tale of Washington profiteering and Israeli lobby power flexing at its ugliest — but the bigger problem is that all of this behind-the-scenes maneuvering impacts directly on the American position in a world that is ever-more concerned about the power of Israel's lobby in influencing and often directing U.S. foreign policy.

Photograph of India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (left) and President George W. Bush (right).

A TOAST TO THE HOST WITH THE MOST: One of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world today is the Indian subcontinent, where Muslim Pakistan and mostly Hindu India are hostile neighbors. Both are nuclear powers; India has had the bomb since 1974. The Israeli lobby is now stirring the embers of hatred in the subcontinent, threatening to start World War III. Above, India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (left) and President George W. Bush (right) toast each other at a recent meeting in Washington. The Bush administration has been co-opted by the neo-cons, many of whom are now pushing Washington to officially support a U.S.-India-Israeli axis against Muslim countries.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from America First Books and First Amendment Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

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